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Message Text

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70
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02

MCT-01 AID-05 /065 W
---------- 104774
R 241210Z NOV 76
FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3746
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MORG, PINS, GY
SUBJECT: PEOPLE'S MILITIA TO BE OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED DECEMBER 1

REF: GEORGETOWN 1966

1. THE GUYANA PEOPLE'S MILITIA (GPM), INITIATED LAST APRIL, IS TO BE OFFICIALLY "LAUNCHED" ON DECEMBER 1, 1976, WITH A ONE-WEEK PROGRAM DESIGNED TO CREATE PUBLIC AWARENESS ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION'S ROLE, ITS SIGNIFICANCE, AND THE REASONS FOR ITS ESTABLISHMENT. THE PROGRAM WILL INCLUDE A GROUND-BREAKING CEREMONY WITH PM BURNHAM AT SEWEYO CREEK ALONG THE SOESDYKE-LINDEN HIGHWAY WHERE THE MILITIA'S MAIN HEADQUARTERS ARE TO BE BUILT.

2. GPM COMMANDANT COL. C.E. MARTINDALE CLAIMED RECENTLY IN THE GOG PRESS THAT THE MILITARY ORGANIZATION (WHOSE MOTTO IS "EVERY CITIZEN A SOLDIER") ALREADY HAS OVER 5,000 MEMBERS. HE HOPES TO DOUBLE THIS NUMBER
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BY THE END OF THIS YEAR. MARTINDALE ALSO NOTED

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THAT THE MILITARY ORGANIZATION PLANS TO DECENTRALIZE
ITS OPERATIONS THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS AND TRAINING CENTERS.

3. COMMENT: THE GOG IS APPARENTLY INTENT ON
MAKING THE GPM THE FIRST SOURCE OF RESERVES FOR
THE REGULAR ARMY DESPITE THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC
DIFFICULTIES. MARTINDALE'S HOPES OF GARNERING
10,000 MILITIA MEMBERS BY 1977, HOWEVER, WILL
PROBABLY NOT BE REALIZED DUE PRIMARILY
TO ADMINISTRATIVE DIFFICULTIES.
MCCOY

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